

Daily Press Briefing
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QUESTION: In the Secretary's conversation with Foreign Minister Derbez on Saturday, did that concern this draft Security Council resolution and U.S. objections to it, apparently, because it refers to the International Criminal Court?

MR. REEKER: Yes, they did discuss this draft Mexican resolution on protection of humanitarian workers. Of course, we fully appreciate the need for protection of humanitarian workers in the provision of access necessary for workers to carry out that type of work.

In this particular case, as I think we have described for you before, we have expressed our concerns to other members of the United Nations Security Council about some aspects of this draft resolution. Our concerns particularly involve language on the International Criminal Court. So we are working closely with other members of the UN Security Council, including Mexico, to make our views known, and we hope that language can be found that is acceptable to all parties on the Security Council.

QUESTION: What exactly don't you like about that language?

MR. REEKER: You know our views on the International Criminal Court. We are concerned that the language discussing that in the resolution is unnecessary. So we are continuing to talk with others about language that can be acceptable to all members of the Security Council, making our views known and listening to others. So we'll continue to have that discussion.

QUESTION: And he raised all these points on Saturday -- the Secretary himself?

MR. REEKER: He discussed this issue with the Mexican Foreign Minister --

QUESTION: And why do you -- why is the reference unnecessary, in your opinion?

MR. REEKER: We just are looking at language that can make the resolution, we think, stronger and more appropriate to us. I don't have any specific discussion to get into. I told you we have concerns about some of the language, particularly references to the International Criminal Court. You are very aware of our views on that. And so we'll continue to discuss this with others.

QUESTION: What would be the problem with prosecuting people for attacks like the one in Baghdad under the International Criminal Court?

MR. REEKER: I don't have any particular view on that. What we're talking about is a resolution and particular language in it. That's something we are discussing with other members of the Security Council and that's what we'll continue to do.

QUESTION: Would you be -- would you be happier with a resolution or would it be acceptable if that reference was just dropped? Or are there other things that need to be done to it as well?

MR. REEKER: Let's just leave it where I've said it, that we're discussing the language in the resolution, we're discussing with all members of the Security Council to come up with language that we're comfortable with, that others are comfortable with. That's our hope is to find language that's acceptable to all, and rather than try to do that sort of discussion and negotiation from here, we'll just do it in New York and then --

QUESTION: You say you think that the language is unnecessary, which means - am I wrong in assuming, then, that you want that language out?

MR. REEKER: Matt, I'm not going to try to parse into specifically what we can do. What we're trying to do is have a discussion with others at the Security Council, in the hope that we can find language that's acceptable to all. And that's something that we can't do from here. We're going to do it in the discussions at the Security Council.

Teri.

QUESTION: Is it still possible, you think, that the U.S. would decide it doesn't want to support this resolution? Deputy Secretary Armitage said outside just a bit ago that he wasn't sure that the U.S., or that the U.S. had not yet made the determination --

MR. REEKER: I think you're talking about a different resolution. Quite a different resolution. You're not talking about the Mexican resolution.

QUESTION: We're talking about -- well, the -- okay. What about -- I - what about the U.S. resolution as, in general, though, is what I'm asking you about, and that's what we asked Secretary Armitage about.

MR. REEKER: Yeah, but the discussion that we just had for the last ten minutes was about an entirely different resolution. It's the Mexican resolution.

QUESTION: And the ICC language. I understand.

MR. REEKER: Right. So you're changing subjects. Is there anything else on the Mexican --

QUESTION: Well, still talking about Iraq resolution.

MR. REEKER: Right, but this wasn't. Is there anything else on the Mexico -- draft Mexico resolution?

QUESTION: I guess you don't have an answer, though, to what it is that would -- that would make it satisfactory to you.

MR. REEKER: No. We're going to discuss that with people at the Security Council in the talks we're having.

Now, shifting --